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ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	CEA-01	CIAE-00	CTME-00	INL-01
	DINT-00	DODE-00	DOTE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	EXIM-01
	E-00	FAAE-00	VC-01	FRB-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00
	IO-00	ITC-01	L-00	VCE-00	AC-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00
	NSF-01	OES-01	OIC-02	OIG-03	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00
	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	SSO-00	STR-00
	TRSE-00	USIE-00	EPAE-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-01	DRL-02
	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/019W			

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R 172215Z MAY 00
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5083
INFO DEPT OF ENERGY WASHDC
USDOC WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 004217

DOE FOR HENRY SANTIAGO, GARY WARD AND DAVID PUMPHREY
STATE PASS USTR - BHARMAN
STATE PASS OPIC AND EXIM FOR AMERICAS DIVISION
USDOC FOR 4331/IEP/OLA/AND/GAISFORD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/17/10

TAGS: EPET, ENRG, ECON, PHUM, SENV, EINV, PGOV, CO
SUBJ: HIGHER COURT RULES IN FAVOR OF OXY EXPLORATION
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CLASSIFIED BY CHARGE BARBARA C. MOORE. REASONS: 1.5 (B&D)

REF: BOGOTA 2826 AND PREVIOUS

1. (SBU) A BOGOTA APPELLATE COURT HAS OVERTURNED A TRIAL JUDGE'S ORDER THAT HAD SUSPENDED OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM'S EXPLORATION OF THE SAMORE BLOCK ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE OIL COMPANY'S OPERATIONS THREATENED THE FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE U'WA INDIANS (REFTEL). THE SAMORE BLOCK COULD CONTAIN UP TO 1.4 BILLION BARRELS OF OIL, A VOLUME SUFFICIENT TO SIGNIFICANTLY DIMINISH THE THREAT OF COLOMBIA BECOMING A NET OIL IMPORTER BY 2005.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J OLSON
DATE/CASE ID: 18 MAY 2004 200303455

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2. (C) OXY RE-COMMENCED OPERATIONS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING
THE APPELLATE COURT'S MAY 15 DECISION.

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3. (C) DURING A MAY 14 MEETING WITH VISITING DRL/DAS
BENNETT FREEMAN,

[REDACTED] EXPRESSED HIS DISAPPOINTMENT WITH THE GOC'S
MANAGEMENT OF THE SITUATION IN SAMORE AND HALF-HEARTED
ATTEMPTS AT DIALOGUE WITH THE U'WA. [REDACTED] NOTED,
HOWEVER, THAT THE U'WA HAD "BOXED THEMSELVES IN WITH
RADICAL POSITIONS." THE SENATOR SUGGESTED THAT IF THE GOC
WERE TO PRODUCE A "HIGH LEVEL" INTERLOCUTOR, AND ENGAGE THE
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U'WA WITH PATIENCE AND RESPECT, THE U'WA MIGHT BE INCLINED
TO BEGIN A FRESH DIALOGUE WITH THE GOVERNMENT.

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